

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Hiroaki SANO et al.	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Confirmation No.: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: February 28, 2005	)	
	)	
For: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS	)	
AND TUBE CONNECTION METHOD	)	
(As Amended)	)	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows: